

Exploring the Career Path

Choose a career you are interested in and would enjoy—possibly the most important step because if you are happy with your work life, everything else is a little easier.

These days many people change careers as if they were changing their outfits. For a variety of reasons, workers no longer stay with one employer for their entire career. When searching for a career it is important to ask yourself a few questions. Do I have the necessary skills to succeed in this job? Does this job meet my expectations in both wage and duties? Do my interests correspond with this occupation? Answering these questions will help confirm your desire for a certain job, or maybe lead you in a new direction of career exploration. O*NET is a website designed to help you answer these questions and to make your career research relatively quick and easy.

When contemplating a career it is important to choose something realistic, one that you are prepared for, or can gain the necessary skills through training or education. On the O*NET homepage (<http://online.onetcenter.org>) there is a section called Skills Search. This is the perfect place to start your career exploration. This assessment will point you in the direction of the careers you are suited for based on skills alone.

If you are already trained to use certain tools or technology, you can also use the Tools and Technology guide on the home page. It will lead you to specific careers that suit the tools and technology you are equipped to handle.

The next step of your journey is to assess your expectations of wage and work activities. To find wage information, select a career from the list of occupations that match your skills. At the bottom of the summary page, find Wages and Employment Trends. This shows national wages and trends

for the specified occupation. If you are interested in wage and trend data information for a specific state, select the state that you want and you can decide whether the wages and trends meet your expectations.

If you would like a more comprehensive list of the duties the career might entail, return to the top of the summary page and select the tab that says Custom. Once there you can select Work Activities and the box that says Show

detailed work activities where available. This provides detailed information that will help you gauge whether those tasks match your interests and capabilities.

The final step is to select a career you are interested in and would enjoy. This is possibly the most important step because if you are happy with your work life it will make everything else a little easier. ①

